

## **REMARKS**

### **I. Status of Claims**

Claims 1-8, 11, and 12 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 6-8, 11, and 12 have been amended and claims 9, 10, and 13-18 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

### **II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph**

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In order to expedite the prosecution, applicant has amended the preamble of the independent claims to identify a “provided” list to overcome the rejection. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are clear and definite and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

### **III. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)**

Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Olson *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,987,376 to Olson et al. (hereinafter “Olson”). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Olson fails to show several features of the presently pending independent claims. Olson discloses a system and method for synchronization between clients in a distributed network. The system includes a host client that invokes a session and selectively admits other clients. The host client is also responsible for distributing application data at each admitted application client. The application data includes a unique identifier for each client. See Column 6, lines 45-55 of Olson. The unique identifier is also referenced as the “system player ID”. The identifier uniquely identifies each client within an application session and may include a 32-bit data structure. The unique ID can include predetermined information that uniquely identifies the client. The host client may place the unique system player ID within a name table containing system IDs for all currently playing clients. See Column 7, line 56-Column 8, line 6 of Olson.

The host client may also be responsible for assigning unique identifiers for players and groups that are defined by clients. This unique identifier may be referenced as the "player" ID. See Column 11, lines 8-15. The unique player ID may be a 32-bit field including a 16 bit index that functions as pointer and a 16-bit uniqueness field. The uniqueness field may be incremented every time an index is reused and can then be used to ensure that another client in the same session does not use the same player ID. See Column 11, lines 20-35 of Olson.

With regard to claim 1, Olson fails to disclose operations that are associated with version numbers. Instead, Olson discloses only an ID to identify each player. Olson does not disclose an ID for identifying an operation. In Olson, if players perform multiple operations within a session the players will still retain the same unique ID. Thus, the ID is not a "version number" as claimed. Furthermore, Olson fails to disclose assigning, by the host peer, a second unique version number to the second operation request, the second unique version number indicating a later receipt time than the first unique version number, such that the host peer evaluates relative arrival times of the first operation request and the second operation request based on the first unique version number and the second unique version number. Olson does disclose a host client using version numbers to determine an order of operations as claimed.

Claims 2-5 depend from claim 1 and define over Olson for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1. Claim 6 is a computer readable medium claim and claim 7 is a computer system claim, both including the same limitations as claim 1. Accordingly, claims 6 and 7 also define over the art of record for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claims 1.

With regard to claim 8, Olson fails to disclose unique version numbers assigned to each operation request as set forth above. Furthermore, Olson fails to disclose determining whether the assigned version number received is the next in a sequence of version numbers processed by the receiving non-host peer, and if it is not, queuing the operation order until the version number is next in the sequence of version numbers processed by the receiving peer. Olson further fails to disclose processing, by the receiving peer, the operation order in the order of the assigned version number. Olson does not disclose the idea of ordering operations based on an assigned version number.

Claims 9 and 10 have been canceled, rendering the rejection moot with respect to these claims. Claims 11 and 12 are computer readable medium and computer system claims respectively, having the same limitations as those set forth above with regard to claim 8. Accordingly, claims 11 and 12 are allowable over the art of record for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 8. Claims 13-18 have been canceled, thereby rendering the rejection moot with respect to those claims.


Because Olson fails to disclose the features set forth above, Olson fails to anticipate the claimed invention. Furthermore, Olson fails to provide any suggestion of using a version number assigned to each requested operation in order to maintain an order of operation, thereby rendering the claims unobvious. Because Olson fails to anticipate the claimed invention, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

#### **IV. Conclusion**

Applicants respectfully submit that the section 112 and 102(b) rejections have been overcome and claims 1-8, 11, and 12 are now in condition for allowance. Allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested. However, if the Examiner believes that any issues remain, he should feel free to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional amount required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-2112 referencing Attorney Docket No. MFCP.81824.

Respectfully submitted,

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